This year, the CCHS Honors Choral Ensemble and Honors Women’s Choral Ensemble is continuing their tradition of traveling to perform a Christmas program.

The Ensembles, composed of sophomores, juniors and seniors will travel to Holy Trinity to sing for the student body, and Saint Gabes to perform for the Christian Mothers Group.

“We got so many requests to perform, but we had to turn them away because of exams,” choral director Mrs. Tippet said.

The chorus members are excited to be performing.

“I’m excited to get to go back to Holy Trinity, because we get to see all of our old teachers, which is really cool,” said Junior Anna Gallucci.

“Singing at the Christmas Tree at South Park mall is probably my favorite,” said Senior Faustina Nguyen. “It’s pretty epic.”

The Honors Ensemble is performing favorites such as “Rockin’ around the Christmas Tree,” “Prayer of the Children,” and a Christmas medley made up of “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.”

“My favorite would have to be ‘Prayer of the Children,’” Junior Brian Vercauteren said. “And I think it’s good practice for our trip to New York in the spring. Even though the songs will be harder, it’s good practice because our voices are still developing.”

The Honors Ensemble will only be singing at Holy Trinity and Saint Gabes.

“I really hope we get to go more places in future years, like the Women’s Ensemble. It’s fun to perform,” said Vercauteren.

Though the Honors Ensemble will only be performing twice, the Women’s Ensemble will be traveling to more places.

“The Women’s Ensemble will be one of four choral groups singing at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Christmas concert on December 11, as well as at Father Moe’s Christmas luncheon at the Pastoral Center on December 16,” said Mrs. Tippet.

Performance songs for the Women’s Ensemble include the classic “Ave Maria,” “In the Bleak Midwinter,” and a song that resembles an ensemble of bells, called “Ding-a-ding-a-ding.” The favorite among many of the Women’s ensemble, however, is a version of “Walking in a Winter Wonderland.”

“We’re doing an acapella jazzy version of it, and it’s a lot of fun,” said Gallucci.

“We’ve got both Christian and contemporary songs,” Mrs. Tippet said. “We’ve even got some powerful ones that express the need for people to lend a helping hand to the needy.”

One place most meaningful to the Women’s Ensemble is the Battered Women’s Shelter, where they will perform for its directors.

“It’s really cool because I like to bring holiday cheer to those less fortunate than us,” said Junior Nicki Lee.

“It’s our first show for a non-profit fundraiser,” said Senior Teresa Nguyen. “It’s the first time we’re going out and singing for people who help others. Mrs. Tippet wants to get the Chorus out there, and even though they offered to pay us, we’re giving everything right back to the shelter.”

Though the performances will require much work and preparation, Mrs. Tippet believes it to be worth it.

“It takes a lot of dedication,” she said. “We’re doing two performances that aren’t during school hours, but it’s a great experience, and a good way to give back.”